GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:418
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
HANUMANTHA RAO COMMITTEE REPORT ON WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fully implemented the Ch. Hanumantha Rao Committee report onWatershed Development in the country;

(b) if so, whether any impact has been noticed after implementation of the new policies to develop watersheds in all the drought prone areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to intensify the watershed development for the benefit of rural people;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to review and rectify any lapses in watershed development programe?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) to (c) Following the recommendation of the Ch. HanumanthaRao Committee, the Ministry of Rural Development had formulated the Guidelines for Watershed Development for improving the productivityof waste and degraded lands and thereby ensuring poverty alleviation in the project areas under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme(IWDP),Drought Prone Programme Areas (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP)etc. w.e.f 1.4.1995. Integrated development of project areas with community participation has been envisaged in these Guidelines. The three main watershed development -programmes are being implemented satisfactorily and there is visible improvement in the availability of fuelwood, fodder, employment to the landless labourers leading to reduction in migration, checking soil erosion, increasing water table and production of crops, improvement in the socia-economic status of the rural people living in or around the watershed projects areas.

(d) & (e) The Government has intensified the implementation of thethree programmes namely the DPAP, DDP and IWDP for the benefit of the rural people. The funds earmarked for these programmes have gradually been increased during the last three years as under:

Name of the Programme	Budget Allocation during Rs. in crores) 1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
DPAP	95.00	190.00	210.00
DDP	85.00	13 5 .00	160.00
IWDP	82.00	387.00	430.00

Revised Allocation

(f). Keeping in view the feedback received over the last six years, the Ministry of Rural Development have revised the Guidelines for Watershed Development in September 2001.These Guidelines provide greaterflexibility, focussed role for Panchayat Raj Institutions, project approach, exit protocol, greater community participation in project implementation and post project maintenance etc.